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April 20-26th, the Agawam Public Libraries are offering to the Town of Agawam an opportunity to return, anytime during that week, absolutely fine free, all overdue books, no matter what date or year they were originally due. Books may be dropped in boxes that will be provided at each library - no questions asked. North Agawam patrons may return their books at North Agawam Library on April 22 and April 28 as well as at Agawam Center and Feeding Hills during National Library Week. I place only one restriction upon this venture that the overdue books be only those borrowed directly from an Agawam Library.

"Like It Is"

George B. Bickford

# THE AGAWAM NEWS INC.

Agawam's First Newspaper Serving All The People

Vol. 18 No. 16 Agawam, Mass. Thursday, April 17, 1969

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## POISON OR ANTIDOTE?



V. R. Moreno

I have been referred to as "Poison Pen" in my editorials by some who feel I am being too tough on them. Isn't it strange that these public officials who differ with what I have to say always come up with alibies for what they do or don't do.

What the public officials in Agawam fail to realize is that their duties are pretty well spelled out. Too, they are committed to their campaign promises. Promises they have made are expected to be kept.

When members of the Board of Selectmen fail in their duties and also renege on their promises then it is a duty, (my duty for one), to make known their ineptness and inability.

Were these their only failings one might say the "Poison" in my "Pen" is too potent, but, when these officials become as slippery as eels in their efforts to mislead the townspeople, then it must be expected the poison in my pen must be potent enough to be an effective antidote for their subversion.

When public officials scheme and plot to have their way without thought to the welfare of the town, then surely the poison emanates from them.

When a public official is entrusted with the faith of a community's people he must honor that faith. He must not, for example, use semantics and the faith placed in him to take advantage of the people he represents. to wit!

The town of Agawam was sold a ladder fire truck by a smooth talking official who had the townspeople's trust. This town official stood on town meeting floor and said, "What's .02 mills on your tax rate; I say we should buy this ladder truck," of course this was part of a lengthy talk.

It sounds very simple and honest but is it? I say "No!" Why? Because the "Mill" method used in reference to your tax rate has never been used on the Agawam Town Meeting floor for at least the past 25 years that I have been attending them. I have never missed a regular or special meeting and have never heard the word "Mill" used until I heard the "RAMBLING PHILOSOPHER" orate last year when he sold the ladder fire truck to the town. I say that had the "Dollar" system been used in his talk to the town meeting members they would not have voted for the ladder truck. They would know it meant \$2 for every thousand dollar of valuation of the property of each and every taxpayer in town. I feel certain the town would not have bought a truck it may never use. (Incidentally, because of that foolish purchase last year Agawam lost the purchase of a sorely needed truck this year.)

This quality of credibility is dangerous if it belongs to someone who uses it to mislead. I think of that type of public official as the law thinks of professional fighters. A fighter's fists are considered lethal weapons and if he uses them outside the ring he is charged with assault with lethal weapons. So, what possible defense can one use against a "Silver tongued orator" since there is no law to protect you? I say feed him back his own "Poison" with a "Pen".

## LET THERE BE MUSIC

"Let THERE BE MUSIC!" is the theme of 2 evening concerts being presented by the Agawam public school music instructors. The 2 programs combine the 3rd grade tonette and the 3 elementary school bands with the Jr. and Sr. high choruses and bands.

Both concerts will be held on Friday evenings at the auditorium at the high school beginning at 7:30 P.M.

The first evening of music will be May 2nd, and will feature the elementary advanced and concert bands together with the Jr. high 7th and

8th grade choruses and the sr. high band.

May 9th's program will present the 3rd grade tonette band of 150 youngsters the elementary beginner band, jr. high band, and the sr. high chorus and chorale.

Each program is under the direction of Mrs. Mary Wuesthoff, Mrs. Sally Lowell; and Darcy Davis, Jr. Director of Music.

Parents, friends, and the public are cordially invited to attend one or both of these interesting school concerts. Tickets may be purchased through any of the public schools.

## installation of officers

Installation of officers was the highlight of the April annual meeting of The Ag. Jr. W.C. on Tuesday, April 15 at the Capt. Ch. Leonard House in Agawam center. Several of the pieces being shown will be available for purchase.

Residents of Agawam and surrounding towns are invited to attend the exhibit this Sat., April 19 from 1-7 P.M.

Mrs. Leslie Melanson, chm. of the event and Mrs. D. David Stratton, co-chm. will hostess a coffee hour for artists exhibiting their work immediately following the show.

LOCAL ITEMS CAN NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER MON. AM

All news copy must be brought or mailed to 435 River Rd. There is no pick-up of news at police station or anywhere else.

Courage is almost a contradiction in terms. It means a strong desire to live, taking the form of a readiness to die.

One gal to another about a posh weekend affair: "I hear everybody was there from A to Z - except U and I!"

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L to R: Co-chm. Mrs. Edward Peck, W. Spfld, and Franklin Taplin, Westfld. Mrs. Wm. Keogh, Ag. Secy., Mass. Library Trustee Assoc.

## LIBRARY TRUSTEES CELEBRATE

Library Trustees from the western area of Mass. are meeting Mon., April 21, at 7 P.M. at the Wilbraham Public Library as a part of Nat'l. Library Week. The Program is designed to help the individual trustee and to stimulate concerted action on common problems of the lib'y trustee.

One of the highlights of the program will be a film entitled Challenge of Change. This is a color film on recruitment and is put out by the Pa. State Library.

Another portion of the program will be devoted to a report of progress on 2 major bills before the legislature. One is H1333 which will increase the amount of money to cities and towns. money to extend the services of the 3 regional systems, make trustees eligible for membership on the regional system board and make the Boston Public Library

a lib'y of last resort. The 2nd bill H2679 is designed to set up a graduate lib'y school at the U. of M., Amherst campus.

There will also be a panel discussion on lib'y ed as it relates to min. standards and accreditation, on salaries with emphasis on collective bargaining tactics.

At 7 P.M. there will be a guided tour of the new \$395,000 Wilbraham Pub. Lib'y by members of the lib'y staff and followed by a film on the Conn. River which will be narrated by Katherine Hepburn.

The Friends of the Library of Wilbraham will serve refreshments.

Mr. Franklin Taplin, Westfield Pub. Lib'y, and Mrs. Edward Peck, W. Spfld. Public Library are the Co-Chm. of the W. Mass. Lib'y trustees, a division of the Mass. Lib'y Trustees Assoc'n. They are anticipating a large attendance.

## Lite a Bike program



John Pisano, age 9, Scott Granger, 8, Past Commander Brady D. Snyder, V.F.W. Chm; Michael Pisano, age 7, Safety officer Harold J. Burnett. (Children are students at Robinson Park elem. school)

Free reflective tape will be applied to youngsters' bikes in a "Lite-A-Bike" program to be conducted here by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 1632 in conjunction with Safety Officer Harold J. Burnett of the Agawam Police Dep't with assistance from local Girl Scout troops - 57, 69, 217, 555, 70. School traffic guards will assist at street crossings at inspection areas.

Tape will be applied to bicycles Monday May 21 at Feeding Hills Cong'l Church parking lot, Tuesday May 22 at South School, WEd. May 23 at Phelps, Thurs. May 24 at Danahy, Fri. May 25 at Robinson Park and Sat. May 26 at Pierce Schools from 9 A.M. to 12 Noon and 1 to 4 P.M. each day. Strips of reflective tape will be put on the rear fender, handlebars and front forks of the bikes, making each one visible after dark from all angles. The highly reflective tape - the same material used in reflective traffic signs and license plates - is visible at distances up to 1,500 feet in the headlights of a car.

"Youngsters shouldn't be out bike riding after dark, but if they are, their bikes ought to have reflective tape," said Past Commander Brady D. Snyder, V.F.W. Chm. of the local "Lite-A-Bike" program.

He pointed out that some 600 persons are killed each year in bike

accidents, 65% of them children aged 5-14. Another 30,000 persons are injured each year in such accidents. 4 out of 5 fatal bike accidents occur at dusk or after dark.

In addition to applying tape, VFW members in conjunction with Safety Officer Burnett will register each bike and inspect the bikes for proper equipment: horn or other signaling device, headlight (optional), rear reflector and functioning brakes.

Burnett stated, "All bikes are requested to be registered as previous reg. are now void. New reg. will only apply as long as registrars maintain his or her bike. In conjunction with the reg. the Agawam Police Dep't will up-date and maintain permanent reg. files to safeguard owners in case of theft."

More than 12 million bikes across the nation have been marked with reflective tape in the VFW program. Supported by the National Safety Council, the "Lite-A-Bike" program depends on reflective tape donated by 3M Co. which has given more than \$2 million worth of the material to date.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Brady D. Snyder (Local V.F.W. "Lite-A-Bike" program 10 Strawberry Hill Rd, Feeding Hills, Mass. Phone 739-6230 or Safety Officer Harold J. Burnett of Agawam Police Department, Phone 737-4767.

A PURPLE MARTIN CAN EAT 2000 MOSQUITOES PER DAY!

## Lichters sell to Rocky's Hardware



Rocky's Hardware, Inc., the area's largest hardware company, has announced the purchase of the assets of Agawam Paint & Hardware Co. Inc., of 303 Walnut Street, Agawam.

In a joint release, James J. Falcone, Pres. of Rocky's, and Samuel Licher Pres. of the Agawam concern, stated that the transaction is effective immediately and that operations will be carried on without interruption while a modern 5,000 square foot facility is being constructed on the same site.

This is the 4th retail hardware store in the Rocky's chain and the 1st outside of Spfld. In addition, the company has a complete rental service center on Union St. in Spfld.

## CATHOLIC WOMEN ELECT

The Catholic Women's Club of Agawam will hold their April meeting Mon., the 21st, at 8:30 P.M. in St. John's Church Hall. Mrs. Alexander Toczek club president will open the business meeting at which time election of officers will be held. Mrs. Francis Capitanio is Chm. of the nom. comm. assisted by Mrs. Walter O'Connor and Mrs. John Shea.

Following the business session, Mrs. William Martel, program chm. will introduce Mr. Ernest Wilburg, V.P. of Landen-True who will discuss "The World of Gems and You". Mr. Wilburg will have trays of unusual stones and pieces for the club members to examine.

Mrs. Robert Wysocki, refreshment hostess, will be assisted in serving by Mrs. Lawrence Moirano, Mrs. Robert Shoemaker, Mrs. Robert Sullivan, Mrs. Albert Taupier, Mrs. James Taupier, Mrs. Felix Thompson, Mrs. Lawrence Vedany, Mrs. Albert Veronesi, Mrs. Stanley Whitlock, Mrs. Walter Willard and Mrs. J. Clinton Wright.

The meeting is open to club members and their friends.

## Skolnick elected Trestle Board President

At last Thursday night's annual meeting of the Club held at the Congregational Church Parish Hall in Agawam, Mr. David Skolnick was elected pres. for the ensuing year.

Also elected were the following officers: G. Arthur Armstrong, V.P.; George Fleming, Sec.; and Robert Shields Tres.

Board of Directors: Robert Hall, Stanley Call, Edward Toon, Robert J. Shields, John Magovern and Donald Gaunt.

## Miss Electra tomorrow's homemaker

Arriving at the Western Mass. Home Show Tuesday is exotic Miss Electra, the Homemaker of the Future. This ravishing robot stands 5'8" tall but weighs only 65 pounds. Her measurements are 38-24-36.

She walks, she talks, she demonstrates the "Ultimate Appliance." Her dexterity will astound you.

You will find her at the WMECo. exhibit at the Better Living Center, E.S. Exposition grounds, April 15-20. There the curvaceous computer, wearing black leotards and a golden face mask, will put on a nine-minute show once every 45 minutes.

At the start of each presentation, her head will be removed from her shoulders to show her intricate circuitry. Then she will be reassembled and connected to a cable panel, and you will see her come to life.

## EXTENSION SERVICE SPONSORS CARD PARTY

Minnie R. Dwight Memorial Scholarship Committee of the Home Division, Hampden County Extension Service, will sponsor a dessert scholarship card party April 24 at 7:00 P.M. at HCIL Building, 1499 Memorial Ave., W. Spfld., Mrs. Edward C. Samplatsky is chm. of the affair.

Committee chm. include: Mrs. Michael Demko, tickets; Mrs. James Hines, door prizes; Mrs. Emil R. Jenny, table favors; Mrs. Frank Chrzanowski, table tallies; Mrs. Rene Dumas, table prizes; and Mrs. Thomas Comaskey and Mrs. Hines, refreshments.

Annual tuition scholarships are awarded to Hampden County residents who are entering freshmen or students in schools of home economics at U. of M. or Framingham State College. Announcement of this year's recipients will be made in May at the spring leaders' meeting of the Home Department.

Tickets for the card party may be obtained by contacting Mrs. Demko or purchased at the door. The public is invited to attend.

## Stigmatine Retreat for Engaged Couples

The Stigmatine Fathers will conduct a retreat for engaged couples over the weekend of April 18-20, at the Espousal Retreat House in Waltham, Mass. (Tel. 893-3465) These retreats, which have been conducted successfully in the past, for several years, begin on Fri. eve and end on Sun. afternoon. They are intended for couples who are seriously considering marriage in the foreseeable future, and are concerned with preparing for a Christian marriage. People of all denominations and of mixed faiths have made these retreats in the past and are most welcome.

## Agawam JC-ettes

The Annual Meeting of the Agawam JC-ettes will be held on Tues., April 22, at the home of Mrs. William Spring. The final business meeting of the year will begin at 8:00 P.M. Committee chm. are asked to present a final report.

All members are asked to be present as the election of officers for the coming year will be held.

## Pisano wins top honors



Joseph L. Pisano of 2 McGrath Terrace, Agawam, has won top honors in the Prudential Insurance Company's Academy of Honor, it was announced today by Thomas Allsopp, Sr. V.P. in charge of Northeastern operations.

Pisano, a member of the W. Spfld. District was named an exec. V.P. of the elite organization, in which membership is based on professional accomplishments in the sale and service of life and health insurance during 1968. Last year, Pisano provided his clients with more than \$1,000,000 of insurance. He has been a member of the Academy of Honor for 3 years.

Mr. Pisano's professional honors include membership in the National Life Underwriters Assoc'n is a National Quality Award qualifier, and has received the National Sales Achievement Award for 1968. He is a member of the Lions Club in Agawam and is a member of the Agawam School Board. He and his wife Rita have been lifetime residents of Agawam and Mr. Pisano can best be remembered for his football talents at the Agawam H.S. where he was on the Allstate team.

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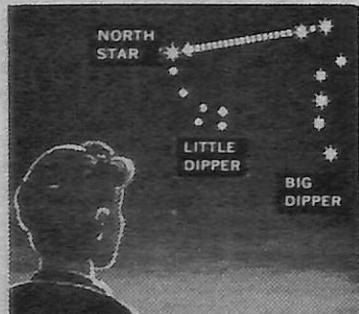
AGAWAM OFFICE -- 40 SPRINGFIELD STREET

Well, What Do You Know?  
fun, games and knowledge

by MARTHA GLAUBER SHAPP, Editor, *The New Book of Knowledge*

How can you find the  
North Star?

The North Star, also called Polaris, is the last star in the handle of the Little Dipper. You can find Polaris by first finding the Big Dipper. Let your eye follow a straight line made by the "pointer stars" in the Big Dipper. The first bright star you see is the North Star. It is not the brightest star in the sky, as some people think. It is only a medium-bright star.



Polaris can be seen only in the Northern Hemisphere. Polaris is called the North Star because it seems to be directly above the North Pole. Thus a person looking at the North Star is looking toward the North Pole.

Why is ocean water salty?

The saltiness of ocean water comes from the minerals in it. As streams flow over the land surface, they take

(For a free booklet, "The Magic Carpet," illustrated in color from *The New Book of Knowledge*, send name and address to Martha Glauber Shapp, Box 47, Putnam Valley, New York 10579.)

out some of its minerals. The one that comes out most easily is salt (sodium chloride). Streams also pick up compounds of magnesium, calcium, and potassium. When water from the land finally flows into the ocean, it carries these minerals with it. When the water evaporates, it leaves the minerals behind. And so the ocean becomes saltier all the time.

How does a sponge feed?

Sponges belong to the animal kingdom. The chief thing that makes a sponge an animal is the way it feeds. A sponge captures its food. It does not make its own food as green plants do. It captures tiny plants and animals from the water around it.

What is spelunking?

Spelunking is the sport of cave exploring. It is like mountain climbing underground, in the dark. Spelunkers, also called cavers, explore "wild" caves. These are caves or parts of caves that have not been opened to tourists. Sometimes spelunkers find and explore caves that were previously unknown or unexplored. In the United States, most spelunkers belong to local caving clubs, usually chapters ("grottoes") of the National Speleological Society.



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### Green Thumb Tips

A summer cottage near the seashore or a lake is likely to be surrounded by sandy soil, unsuitable for many flowers.

Yet such annuals as love-in-a-mist, nemesia, mignonette and California poppy will grow well in sandy soil. Why not plant seeds early for summer flowers?

The term "monogerm" is a new one when applied to beets. For many years when you planted a beet "seed" you really sowed a group of seeds.

That's why a cluster of seedlings always came up close together. You had to thin these and discard thinnings so room would be adequate for plants left.

Not so with the beet varieties which are listed as "monogerm."

Single seeds produce a single seedling. This saves the work of thinning and regret at discarding seedlings.

If you have ever wondered why your neighbor's annual flowers bloomed earlier and looked better than yours, here's a check list of possibilities:

You didn't sow seeds early enough.

You sowed seeds too thickly and then failed to thin enough.

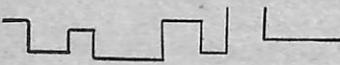
You didn't thin seedlings soon enough.

Or, you didn't allow the plants left after thinning sufficient room for full growth.

One reason gardeners may complain of trouble with bean seeds rotting instead of sprouting is cold soil.

Bean seeds are sensitive to soil temperature — wait until it warms before planting them.

There's a new ageratum on the market this year — earlier to bloom than others. Its name is Blue Surf, it's a hybrid and it grows 6 inches high. Why not try it for a border?



I tell you every week and do you learn? No. Get me a subscription to the AGAWAM NEWS.

Heard in a New York bar: "My boss won't let me make personal calls at the office, and my wife and daughter won't let me make them at home."

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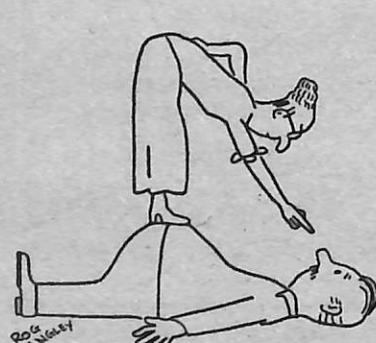
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### Jr. High Band in Summer Music Course

Members of the Jr. High Band as well as Elementary instrumental students - grades 4-6, will have an opportunity to continue studying and playing their instruments in the NEW Summer Music Program (formerly called "Tune Under the Trees".)

Held each Tuesday at the Sr. High Band room from June 24th to July 27th for 6 weeks, each band group will have its' own 2 hour rehearsal and section lesson with pro. instrumental teachers. Under the direction of Mrs. Sally Lowell, Elementary Instrumental Instructor for the public schools, the program is being sponsored by 24 parents representing each school and band.

As a finale, a "CONCERT ON THE GREE" of the 3 bands will be held outdoors (audience bringing their own summer chairs) on Tuesday, July 27th, 6:30 P.M. in front of the Agawam H.S. This concert is open to all parents, friends, and Agawam townspeople free of charge.

Pupil registrations for the course are rapidly filling up, so interested parents should call Mrs. Lowell, Tel: 732-5810 by May 10th, to insure their child being accepted.

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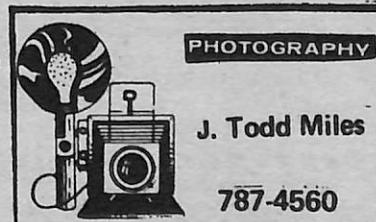
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Fri., " 25 Rte. 5



J. Todd Miles  
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### Legal Notices

COMMONWEALTH OF  
MASSACHUSETTS

Hampden SS Probate Court

To all persons interested in the estate of ROBERT A. MAGISTRI late of Agawam in said County of Hampden, deceased.

A petition has been presented to said Court for probate of a certain instrument purporting to be the last Will of said deceased by THERESA A. MAGISTRI of said Agawam praying that she be appointed executrix thereof without giving a surety on her bond.

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Springfield, in said County of Hampden, before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the second day of May 1969, the return day of this citation.

Witness, ABRAHAM I. SMITH, Esquire. First Judge of said Court this twenty-seventh day of March 1969.

JOHN J. LYONS, Register.  
April 10, 17, 24

COMMONWEALTH OF  
MASSACHUSETTS

Hampden SS Probate Court

To all persons interested in the trust estate under the will of SOLOMON FREDERICK CUSHMAN otherwise SOLOMON F. CUSHMAN or S. FREDERICK CUSHMAN or S. F. CUSHMAN late of Agawam, in said County, deceased for the benefit of ALICE J. CUSHMAN and others under the third clause of said will.

The trustee of said estate has presented to said Court for allowance its fourteenth account.

If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Springfield before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the twentieth day of May 1969, the return day of this citation.

Witness, ABRAHAM I. SMITH, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this ninth day of April 1969.

JOHN J. LYONS, Register.  
April 17, 24, May 1

COMMONWEALTH OF  
MASSACHUSETTS

Hampden SS Probate Court

To all persons interested in the estate of FRANCES GUILLET BROWN late of Agawam in said County, deceased.

A petition has been presented to said Court, praying that BERNICE BROWN CIGNOLI of Agawam or some other suitable person be appointed administratrix of said estate.

If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Springfield, in the County of Hampden, before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the twenty-ninth day of April 1969, the return day of this citation.

Witness, ABRAHAM I. SMITH Esquire, First Judge of said Court, the twenty-fourth day of March 1969.

JOHN J. LYONS, Register.  
April 3, 10, 17

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